

16th National Veterans Golden Age Games



Issue 5 - August 15, 2002

The 2002 Games results are posted daily near the information desk on the Plaza Level.



Casino Night

Presented by the
Desert Pacific Healthcare Network

Hosted by the
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

Co-sponsored by the:



Veterans of Foreign Wars



Department of Veterans Affairs

North to Alaska

by: Kerri Childress,
Media Relations, Washington, D.C.

They were born more than 700 miles north of Anchorage, Alaska.

They grew up eating beluga whale, oogruk (seal) and dried fish.

They call themselves Inupiak Eskimos and they are members of the first Golden Age team from America's most northern state.

Victor Ashenfelter, 55, and Gabriel Moses, 57, are both Navy veterans whose open smiles reflect one of Gabriel's favorite quotes: "I've never met a man I didn't like."

Gabriel, one of 13 children, was raised in the village of Elim, just 40 miles from White Mountain, where Victor was born. They didn't meet until they started working together to help raise funds to send Alaskan veterans to the Games. Called the Alaska Disabled Veteran Sports Program, Inc., the organization has funded competitors for the Wheelchair Games, the Creative Arts Festival and this year the Golden Age Games.

"We've had a great time here, loving the weather. The temperature in Anchorage yesterday was 74 degrees – that's hot!" said Victor.

When asked how they got names like Ashenfelter and Moses, Victor admitted that he was only three-quarter Eskimo and that his dad had German blood. Gabriel explained that his family name was "ah-myth-tho-aak," which didn't sit well with IRS and social security, so a minister opened the Bible and suggested "Gabriel Moses."

"Makes me the only Jewish Eskimo alive!" said Gabriel.

Gabriel's first assignment in the military was in New Iberia, La. He remembers getting into town and looking for a butcher shop. The owner was kind enough to let him sit in the freezer. "People kept looking in the window to see the Eskimo," he said.

After he got out of the Navy, Gabriel hitchhiked through 41 states to see the country that he

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Gabriel Moses and Victor Ashenfelter

Locations

Command Center

Constellation I

Plaza Level

Lost & Found

Constellation I

Plaza Level

Media Center

Constellation II

Plaza Level

HP Internet Cafe

Encino Room

California Level

Coaches' Room

Bel Air Room

Information Booth

Lobby Area

The Daily Wave is also available on the Golden Age Games Web site at www.va.gov/vetevent/gag/2002.

Medical Assistance and Wheelchair Repair are in Suite 702

The Last Five on the Greens

by: *Estella Murray,*
VAMC Long Beach, California

When five strangers met at the Ranch Golf Course, the only question was, which state was talking home the gold? Dennis Pryor, from Sandusky, Ohio, stated "I came to California to get the gold!" Henry Campbell, from Los Angeles informed him and the others that the gold was not leaving the state. The challenge was on.

John McMasters from San Diego, Robert McCrae from Denver, and Stonell Greene from Dallas, were also there to win.

As the round proceeded through the bunkers and over the greens, the quest to win took a backseat to a new friendship, shared golf tips,

and words of encouragement shared between the participants. Shots that would not go into the hole had the scorekeepers and the coach from Sandusky, Ohio, ready to destroy some golf clubs.

The gold and bronze went to Texas in the 55-59 and 75-80 age groups. The gold remained in California for all the other age groups.

Friendship and the love of the National Golden Age Games was the catalyst for uniting the West, the South, and the East.



Happy Birthday!

Hopefully, this completes the list of birthday participants!

Happy Birthday to:

August 10th

Ruperto Acosta

Salvatore Badolato

Adrienne Mohamed

August 11th

Joseph Lenski

Alfred Logston

Walter Phillips

Michael Whiting

August 12th

Gloria Morris



Michael Stern

Gordon Trotter

August 13th

David Gleason

August 14th

Morise Brown

Gabriel Moses

August 15th

Jay Bachrach

Bernard Kenan

August 16th

Gerard Bourgeois

Melanie Downing

Jacquelyn Drennan

August 17th

James Hermann

Jose Puga



VA/DoD

Partnerships Come in Many Forms

by: D. Mark Katz, VISN 22

At the National Veterans Golden Age Games in Los Angeles, two generations of one family bring their commitment to veterans together on the field of sports competition - this being another example of the power of joint VA/DoD partnerships.

Airman First Class Dewayne Vaughan, Jr., has been serving on active duty in the U.S. Air Force for the past two years. He is taking two weeks leave and joining his father and sister at the Games. A1C Vaughan's father is Dewayne "Bubba" Vaughan, Sr., who is VA's Director of the National Veterans



A1C Dewayne Vaughan, Jr.
and his sister Kim

Golden Age Games. A1C Vaughan stated, "I've been around veterans my entire life and I wanted to help my father support veterans."

"Being active duty and a future veteran, I am thankful for the opportunity to help at these Games," he stated. "The participants appreciate the help and support of the active duty personnel."

Captain Margaret Ronzio, USNR, who commands the Naval Information Bureau 1018, a reserve unit, in Kansas City, Mo., also values the partnership with the Games. Since 1997, Captain Ronzio's unit has provided public affairs support to the Golden Age Games. "The Games provide valuable public affairs training for our unit members," stated Captain Ronzio. "The Games also establish personal relationships between unit members and participants, which are truly inspiring and long-lasting."

OneVA

Once again, the spirit of OneVA across the nation results in success for a veteran. Earlier this week, participant Wesley Porch, while riding in a shuttle bus with Jim McFall, engaged in a conversation that changed his life.



Porch

During the ride, Porch mentioned to McFall that his home VA healthcare provider was having difficulty finding someone to make him a new prosthetic eye. He has had his prosthetic eye since 1960. To Porch's amazement and delight, McFall is the chief of prosthetics at the Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, and with the help of Dr. William Clearihue, an anaplastologist, was able to provide Porch with a new prosthetic eye. Kudos to all!

North to Alaska

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had been fighting for. While in Boston, he was offered a job as a waiter. His boss told him he would give him an extra 40 cents an hour if he could put a sign in the window, "Eskimo waiter." Gabriel filled the place.

"It's difficult for people to realize how vast Alaska is," said Victor. "There are many different tribes of Eskimos, who speak many languages and dialects. There is no written language."

Because of its vast wilderness, the government trained Eskimos to guard the coastline during WWII. Gabriel's dad was one of the scouts throughout the war.

Both Victor and Gabriel are proud of their service to their country and equally proud of their heritage. For Victor, that includes a bronze medal in table tennis – but the Games are not over yet.

Thursday's Activities

8:00 am - 10 am	Nine Ball – <i>Ambulatory and Wheelchair</i> (55-59; 75-79) Century Plaza Hotel/California Showroom
8:00 am - 10:00 am	Croquet (60-64; 70-74) Brentwood School
9:00 am - 3:00 pm	Camarillo Outlet Mall Bus departs from Century Plaza Hotel
9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Disneyland Bus departs from Century Plaza Hotel
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Croquet – <i>Ambulatory</i> (65-69; 80 plus) Brentwood School
	Nine Ball – <i>Ambulatory and Wheelchair</i> (60-64; 70-74) Century Plaza Hotel/California Showroom
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Croquet – <i>Ambulatory</i> (55-59; 75-79) Brentwood School
	Nine Ball – <i>Ambulatory and Wheelchair</i> (65-69; 80 plus) Century Plaza Hotel/California Showroom
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Award Presentations Century Plaza Hotel/Olympic Ballroom
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Mystery Dinner Century Plaza Hotel/Los Angeles Ballroom
6:00 pm - 12:00 am	Electrical Parade Disney Park
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Coaches/Sponsors Reception Wadsworth Theatre
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Comedy/Karaoke Night Century Plaza Hotel/Westside Room

Transportation Schedule

Croquet/Brentwood School

<u>Bus Departs</u>	<u>Return to Hotel</u>
7:00 am	10:30 am
9:00 am	12:30 pm
12:00 pm	3:30 pm

Disneyland

<u>Bus Departs</u>	<u>Return to Hotel</u>
9:00 am	4:00 pm

Coaches Reception/ Wadsworth Theatre

<u>Bus Departs</u>	<u>Return to Hotel</u>
6:30 pm	9:00 pm

Departures from Century
Plaza Hotel's lobby.

Volunteers'

Appreciation Ceremony

Thursday, August 15 – 2:00 pm

MacArthur Field

(near Brentwood Theater)

Transportation: Use Shuttles

Mainely Gold

Next year's Golden Age Games will be held in Orono, Maine! In the spirit of the Games, a free gift will be handed-out between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm, outside the California Showroom, and 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm, outside the Los Angeles Ballroom.



TODAY'S WEATHER

Cloudy/Sunny
81/65

MENU

Breakfast: Served 6 am - 8 am

Seasonal Fruit
Sausage Patties
Grits
Red Bliss Potatoes
Breads/Bagels
Coffee/Tea/Milk/Juice

Lunch: Served 11 am - 1:30 pm

Fruit
Debbie Cup Cake
Ham Sandwich
Soda or Water

Dinner: Served 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Salad
Rice Pilaf & Vegetables
Baked Chicken
Assorted Rolls
Strawberry Short Cake
Coffee/Tea/Milk

Breakfast will be served at the Los Angeles Ballroom.
Lunch will be served at the Los Angeles Ballroom and offsite.
Dinner will be served at the Los Angeles Ballroom.